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(54) **Multi-component telepresence system and method**

(57) The present invention provides systems and methods for performing robotics assisted surgical procedures on a patient. In particular, a three component surgical system (2) is provided that includes a non-sterile drive and control component (40), a sterilized end effector or surgical tool (20), and an intermediate connector component (24) that includes mechanical elements for coupling the surgical tool (20) with the drive and control component (40), and for transferring motion and electrical signals therebetween. The drive and control component (40) is shielded from the sterile surgical site, the surgical tool (20) is sterilized and disposable and the intermediate connector (24) is sterilized and reusable. In this manner, the intermediate connector (24) can be sterilized after a surgical procedure without damaging the motors (170) or electrical connections within the drive and control component (40) of the robotics system.

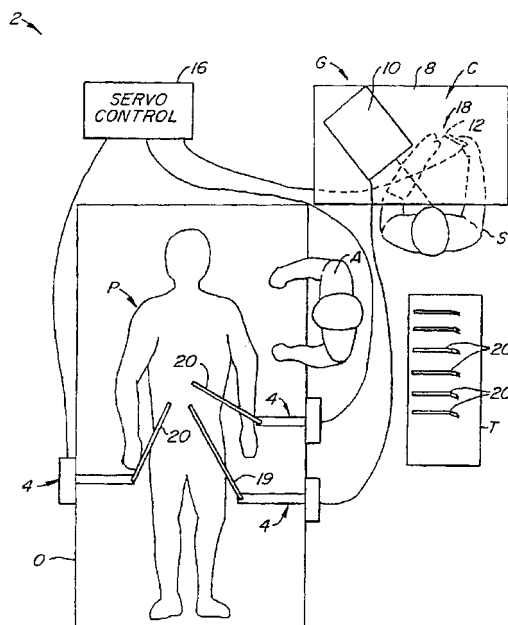


FIG. 1.



EUROPEAN SEARCH REPORT

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Place of search		Date of completion of the search	Examiner
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CATEGORY OF CITED DOCUMENTS X : particularly relevant if taken alone Y : particularly relevant if combined with another document of the same category A : technological background O : non-written disclosure P : intermediate document T : theory or principle underlying the invention E : earlier patent document, but published on, or after the filing date D : document cited in the application L : document cited for other reasons & : member of the same patent family, corresponding document			

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**ANNEX TO THE EUROPEAN SEARCH REPORT
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